

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 00669 191138Z
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00
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O 191040Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9550
CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 0669

NEA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

CNO FOR ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MMOL, PK, US
SUBJ: PAKISTAN NAVY "SX 404" CLASS SUBMARINE (U)

REF: ISLAMABAD 279

1. I REALIZE THIS IS A HECTIC TIME IN WASHINGTON, BUT
WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR LOOKING INTO A SPECIFIC ISSUE INVOLVING
TIMELY COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND PAK NAVIES ON A
HUMANITARIAN ISSUE. AS WE HAVE REPORTED IN EARLIER TRAFFIC,
THE PAKISTAN NAVY LOST A MINI-SUBMARINE WITH EIGHT MEN
ABOARD IN THE ARABIAN SEA OFF KARACHI IN LATE DECEMBER.
THE PAK NAVY HAS INFORMALLY ASKED WHETHER WE MIGHT BE ABLE
TO HELP IN LOCATING THE SUB. THE PN IS CONCERNED OVER HOW
MUCH SUCH USN ASSISTANCE MIGHT COST AND HAS BEEN RELUCTANT
TO OFFICIALLY ASK OUR HELP NOT KNOWING THE FINANCIAL
IMPLICATIONS.

2. WE NOW HAVE IN THE KARACHI AREA, AS PART OF OPERATION
BEARING STAKE, THREE USN SHIPS WITH, I UNDERSTAND, A POSSIBLE
CAPABILITY OF LOCATING THE LOST SUB. IN REFTEL WE RECOMMENDED
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THAT WE OFFER TO HELP LOCATE THE SUB AT NO COST TO PAK NAVY.
I BELIEVE PN WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL FOR SUCH AN OFFER AND
WOULD ACCEPT IT, IF IT WERE GIVEN EXPEDITIOUSLY.

3. THE PN HAS BEEN VERY COOPERATIVE IN MAKING BERTHING SPACE
AVAILABLE AND GRANTING CLEARANCE FOR THE BEARING STAKE
OPERATION. TRADITIONALLY, THE PN HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL TO

THE USN AND BILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO NAVIES AND PAK RESPONSIVENESS TO PORT VISIT REQUESTS HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE EXCELLENT. IF WE ARE RESPONSIVE AT THIS TIME, WE WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP THE PN ON A HUMANITARIAN ISSUE AT A MINIMAL COST TO OURSELVES. OUR ASSISTANCE AT THIS TIME WOULD BE ESPECIALLY APROPOS SINCE THE SHIPS IN BEARING STAKE ARE LIKELY THE VERY ONES WHICH CAN ASSIST IN FINDING THE SUBMARINE.

4. IT IS IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT OUR OFFER BE ON A NON-REIMBURSABLE BASIS. ASKING FOR REIMBURSEMENT WOULD BE VIEWED BY PN, WHICH IS CONTINUALLY IN FINANCIALLY TIGHT POSITION, AS STRANGE RESPONSE TO A PLEA FOR HELP FROM A FRIENDLY NAVY. THE LOSS OF THE SUB HAD A DIRECT IMPACT ON THE PN, NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF ITS OPERATIONAL READINESS BUT ALSO ON THE MORALE OF THE SUBMARINERS. IN LIGHT OF THE SOUND AND CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO NAVIES, I WOULD HOPE WE COULD EXPECIDITOUSLY OFFER TO LOCATE THE SUB ON A NO-COST BASSI. (IF WE DO SO, ONCE THE SUB IS LOCATED, THE PN MAY THEN ASK FOR HELP IN RAISING THE HULK. I REALIZE THIS IS A MUCH MORE AMBITIOUS UNDERTAKING AND DO NOT PROPOSE WE MAKE ANY COMMITMENTS NOW IN THAT REGARD.)

5. MORE THAN THREE WEEKS HAVE GONE BY SINCE THE SUB WAS LOST AND NINE DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE OUR RECOMMENDATION TO HELP WAS SENT TO WASHINGTON. EVERY DAY THAT PASSES FURTHER DETRACTS FROM THE POSITIVE IMPACT WE WILL MAKE AND BENEFITS WE CAN GAIN FROM AN OFFER TO HELP. I WOULD HOPE THIS IS ONE CASE WHERE WE CAN MOVE IN A TIMELY FASHION AND ASSIST A

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FRIENDLY NAVY IN DISTRESS. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR HELP ON THIS ONE.
BYROADE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 19-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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